GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:479
ANSWERED ON:17.07.2002
STRATEGY OF NUCLEAR WAR
SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV (PATIL)

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that the hospitals of the country are not properly equipped for tackling the situation arising out of the nuclear war;

(b) if so, whether the Government have prepared any strategy in this regard;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the preparations have been made by the Government to tackle the situation arising out of the imminent danger of chemical, biological and nuclear war; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA)

(a) to (e) A nuclear war will gives rise to mass casualties and deaths, which would be difficult for any National Health System to cope with. The health care facilities itself may get destroyed or damaged. Electromagnetic pulse generated will affect the communication systems and the functioning of advance life support systems.

However, a health sector contingency plan to deal with the situation arising out of the chemical, biological and nuclear war has been prepared by Ministry of Health and Family Welfare and forwarded to the Civil Defence authorities for implementation in coordination with all concerned nodal and supportive departments. The salient features of the plan are constitution of a crisis management group and a technical committee to advise, identification of hospitals for finitive care along with logistic support system, public health measures required to be taken for management of the crisis, listing of NBC equipments, procedures for handling and decontamination of contaminated patients and list of emergency durgs.